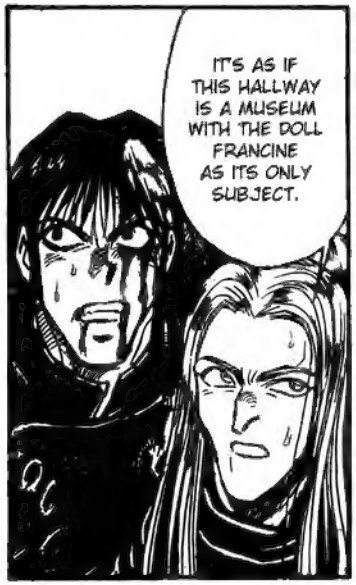
Act 30
The Center Room


IT'S AS IF THIS HALLWAY IS A MUSEUM WITH THE DOLL FRANCINE AS ITS ONLY SUBJECT.

3

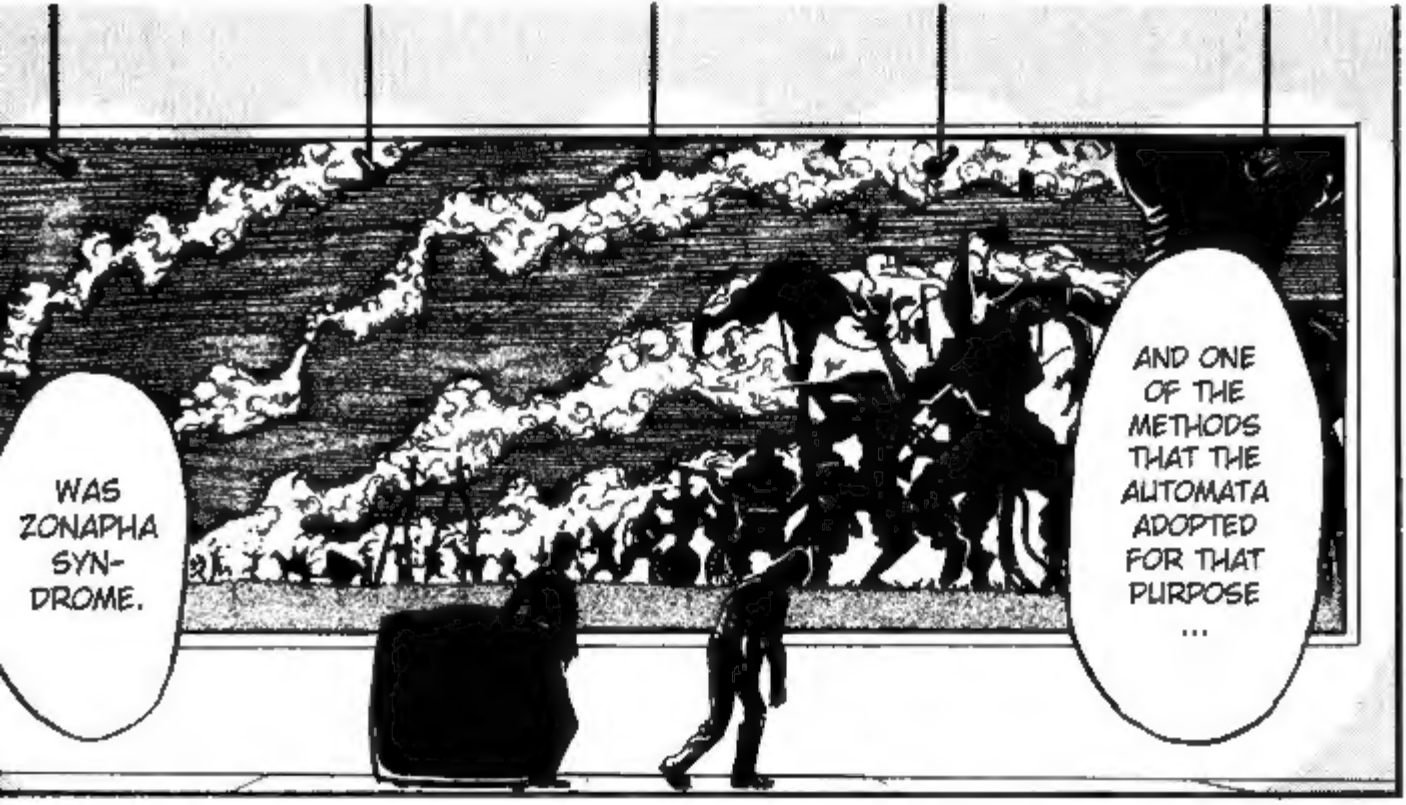
IT'S NOT JUST PAIN-TINGS ...
THERE ARE SCULP-TURES TOO.

2

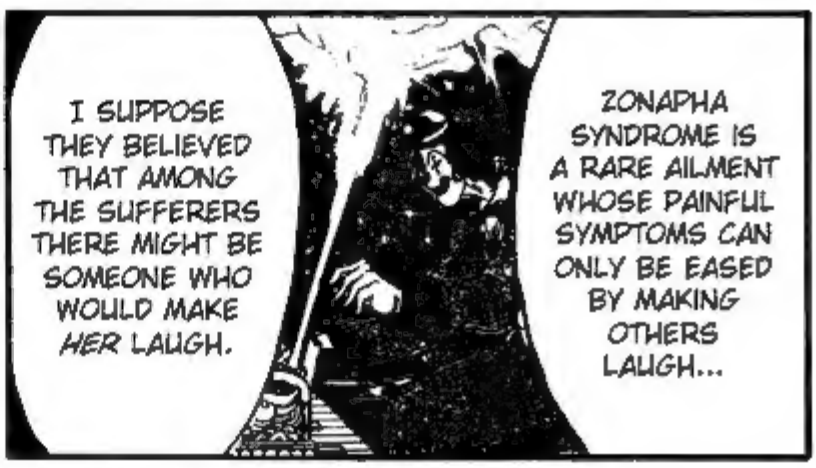
AND IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WALK THROUGH IT.

A PAINTING ...?

...ALL RIGHT, THEN ...
I GUESS I KINDA HAVE TO BE... SINCE YOU'VE GOT THAT HEAVY TRUNK TO CARRY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH?
TCH... I DON'T NEED YOU TO HELP ME WALK.
...VERY WELL.
TOR, HOW 'BOUT YOU GIVE ME THE GUIDED TOUR OR SOMETHING ...?
BUT... I DON'T WANNA GET SO BORED THAT I FALL ASLEEP, HERE...
AFTER THE DOLL FRANCINE WAS CAST ASIDE BY HER MYSTERIOUS CREATOR, SHE BESTOWED LIFE UPON LES QUATRE PIONNIERS, AND THEY LEFT ON A JOURNEY.
4
THEY HAD BUT ONE OBJECTIVE. TO FIND SOME METHOD OF MAKING HER LAUGH.


WAS ZONAPHA SYN-DROME.
AND ONE OF THE METHODS THAT THE AUTOMATA ADOPTED FOR THAT PURPOSE ...

JUST OUT OF DEVOTION TO THIS DOLL FRANCINE ...?
HMPH. AND ALL THIS IS REALLY ...


I SUPPOSE THEY BELIEVED THAT AMONG THE SUFFERERS THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE WHO WOULD MAKE HER LAUGH.
ZONAPHA SYNDROME IS A RARE AILMENT WHOSE PAINFUL SYMPTOMS CAN ONLY BE EASED BY MAKING OTHERS LAUGH...

IT WAS NINETY YEARS AGO...

THE AUTOMATA KNOW, ONE AND ALL... THAT THEY WERE BUILT, AND GO ON EXISTING, ONLY FOR HER.

I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE TOLD YOU, YET, ABOUT THE FIRST TIME I MET HER...
...SO IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S A GODDESS TO THEM, HUH?

チ チ
ヨ ヨ
ロ ロ
日 日
ロ ロ
hhi
hhi
hhi
hhi
hhi
hhi

コ
カ

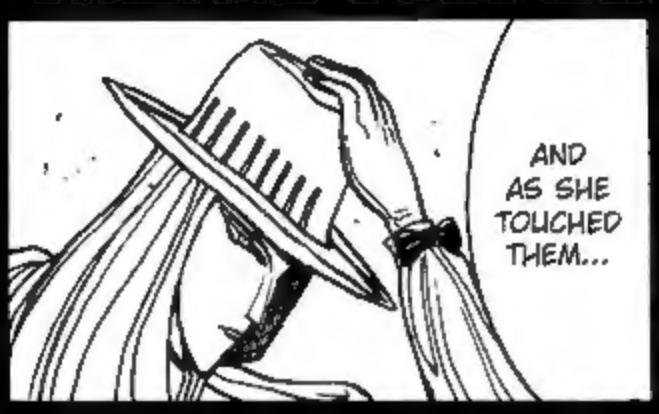
OW ....!
キ

MUT-TER ...
コ
カ
VATER ...

WHAT'S GOING ON...?
IT... HURTS SO MUCH ...
カ
hhi

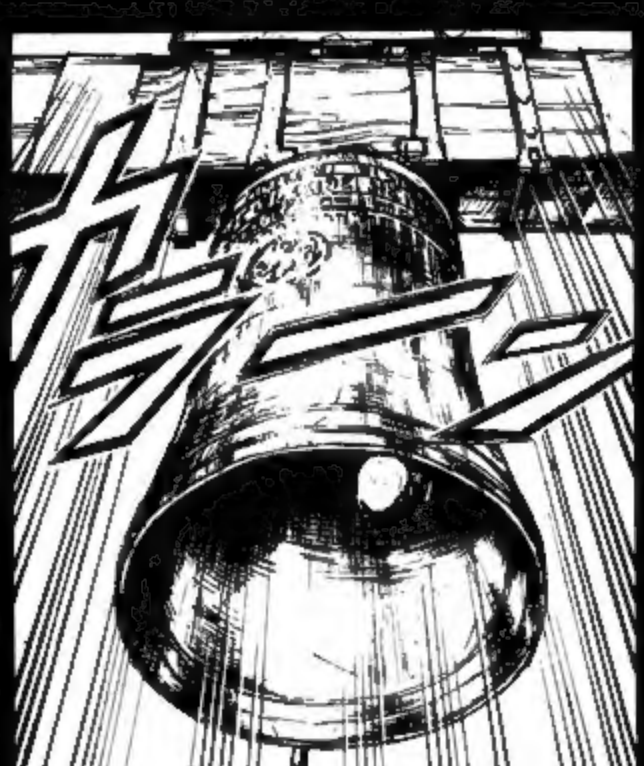
.....
IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT I FIRST SAW THE DOLL FRANCINE.
WITHOUT MOVING SO MUCH AS AN EYEBROW, SHE GAZED DOWN AT THE SUFFERING PEOPLE BEFORE HER.
SHE LOOKED DOWN UPON ME AS ONE WOULD AT AN INSECT.
DESPITE THE AGONY I WAS IN, I SHIVERED WITH HORROR.
FOR I COULD SEE...
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
THAT INSIDE HER HEART ...

AND THEN *SHE* WENT ON, INTO A CROWD OF WHIRLING, DANCING BEINGS COSTUMED LIKE CIRCUS PERFORMERS.


AND AS SHE TOUCHED THEM...

SHE PATTED CERTAIN OF THEM ON THE HEAD...

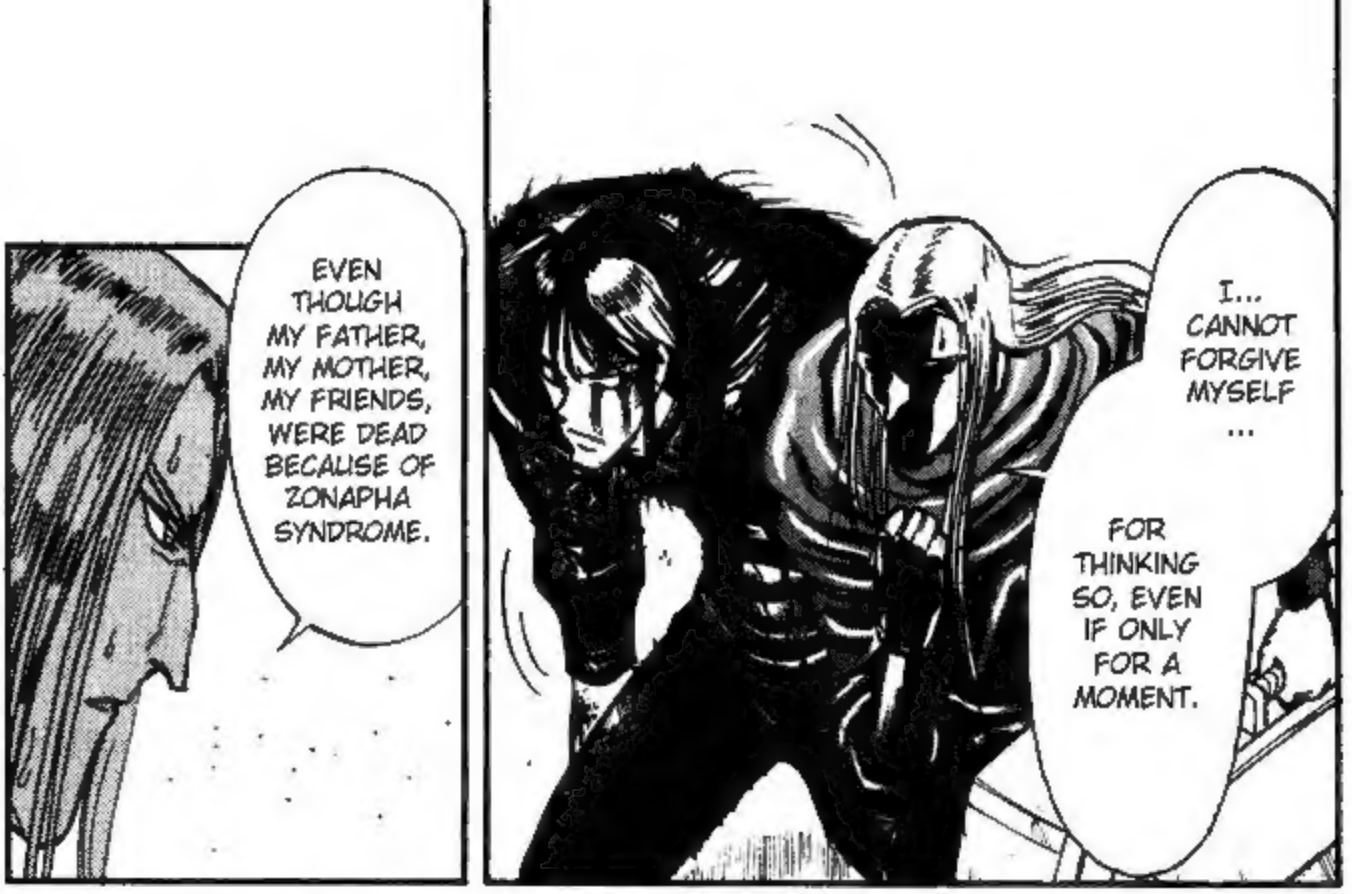
THOSE DEMONS WHO HAD BROUGHT DISEASE TO MY TOWN ...


ガラ

THOSE REPULSIVE DOLLS...
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY DID THEN...?

カラーン
カラーン
NARUMI... AT THAT MOST AWFUL OF MOMENTS, I THOUGHT ...
THAT SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL ...

JUST LIKE ...
THE HOLY MOTHER OF HELL.


EVEN THOUGH MY FATHER, MY MOTHER, MY FRIENDS, WERE DEAD BECAUSE OF ZONAPHA SYNDROME.
I... CANNOT FORGIVE MYSELF ...
FOR THINKING SO, EVEN IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

AND AT THE SAME TIME...
BY DOING SO WE WILL ELIMINATE THE AUTOMATA'S REASON TO SPREAD ZONAPHA SYNDROME.
WE CANNOT FAIL TO DESTROY THE DOLL FRANCINE.

WE WILL... FOR SURE...

THE CENTER ROOM!
OH... THAT MUST BE IT.

I WANT TO BURY MY OLD SELF ONCE AND FOR ALL.

GOOD, HERE YOU ARE AT LAST. WE WERE GROWING TIRED OF WAITING.
HA HA HA ...
DOTTORE ...
CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON REACHING THE END!
ALL OF THE SURVIVING SHIROGANE ARE NOW GATHERED HERE.

NOW, LET US BEGIN!

14

DAHL! TIMBA-VATI!
THEY LIED TO US.
HONESTLY ...! THESE CLOCKWORK MONSTERS HAD SOME NERVE CALLING US RULE-BREAKERS.

BEGIN ... WHAT?
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET THE DOLL FRANCINE HERE, WEREN'T WE?

……

WHERE ARE DMITRI AND FACE-LESS?
DON'T GO KICKING THE BUCKET UNTIL I PAY YOU BACK.
YOU PUT ON A REAL FLASHY SHOW BACK THERE, NARUMI.

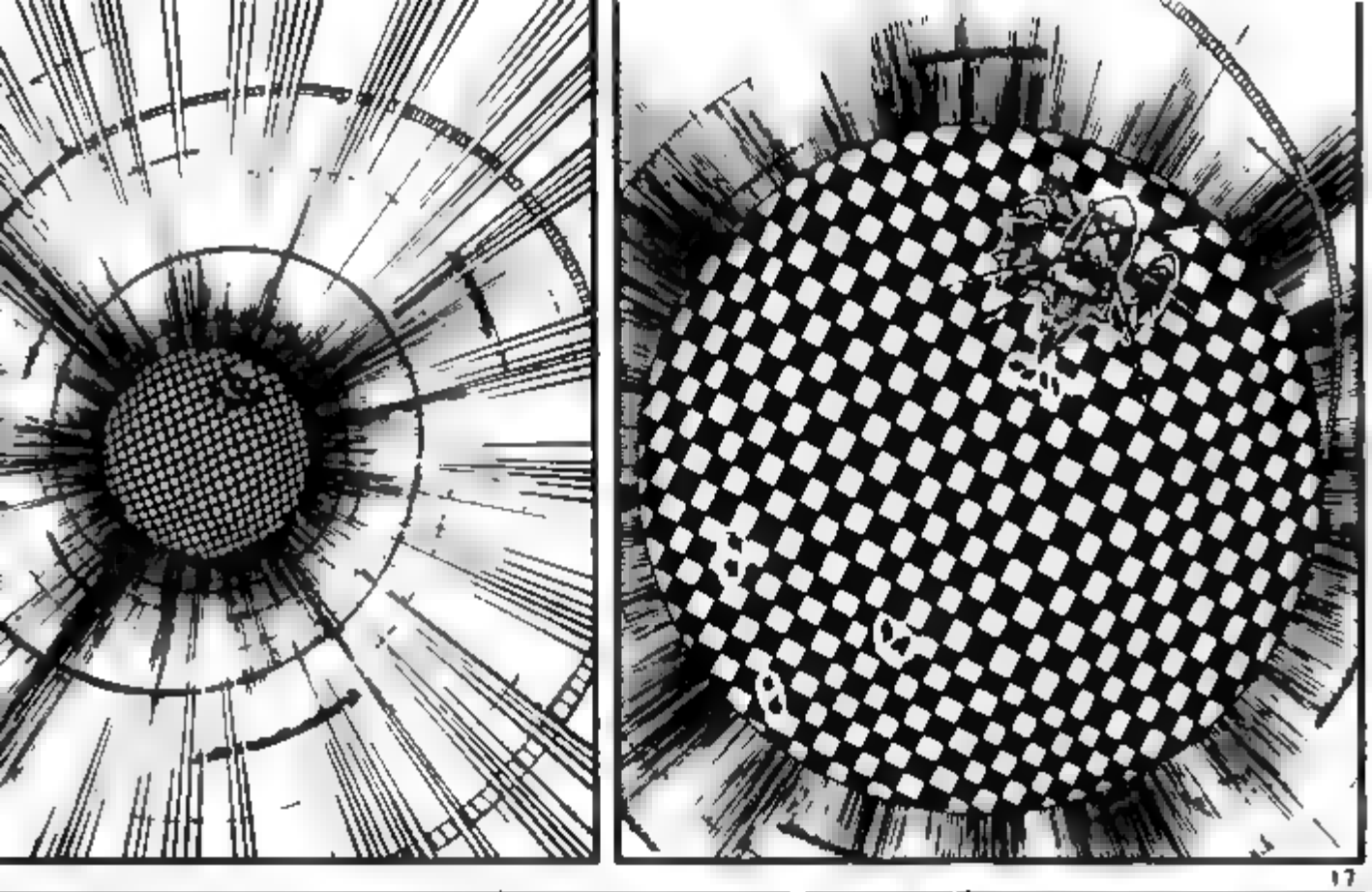
ROCKENFIELD! LINA!
HMPH! MORE LIKE WE WERE *MADE* TO WAIT.
THAT'S UNFORTUNATE. WE WERE WAITING HERE IN THE HOPES OF FIGHTING WITH EVERY-BODY.

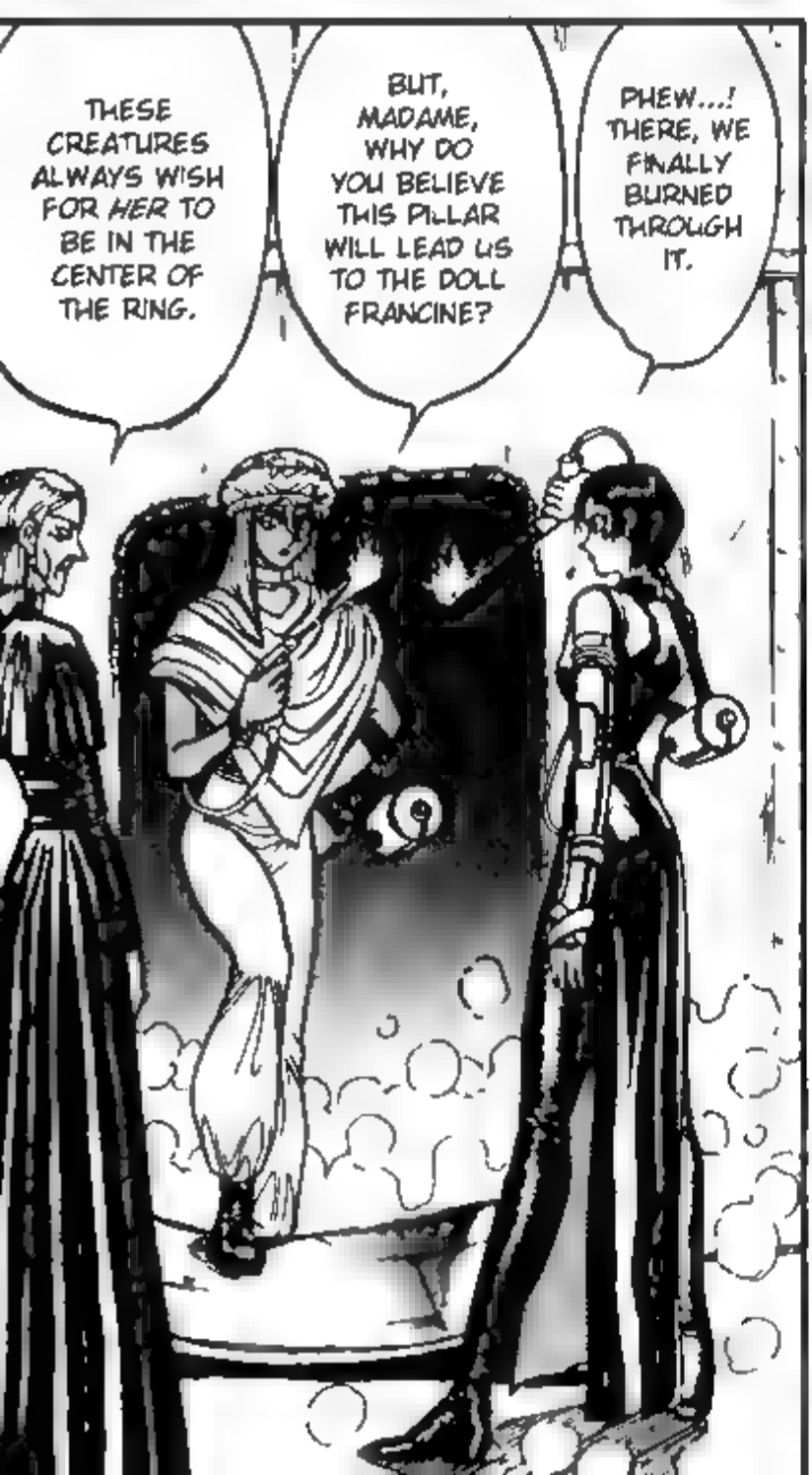
WE FORGAVE THE SHIROGANE WHO CAME HERE FROM INCORRECT ROOMS OUT OF THE SHEER KINDNESS OF OUR HEARTS.
YOU HAVE NO CAUSE TO ACCUSE US OF BREAKING THE RULES.

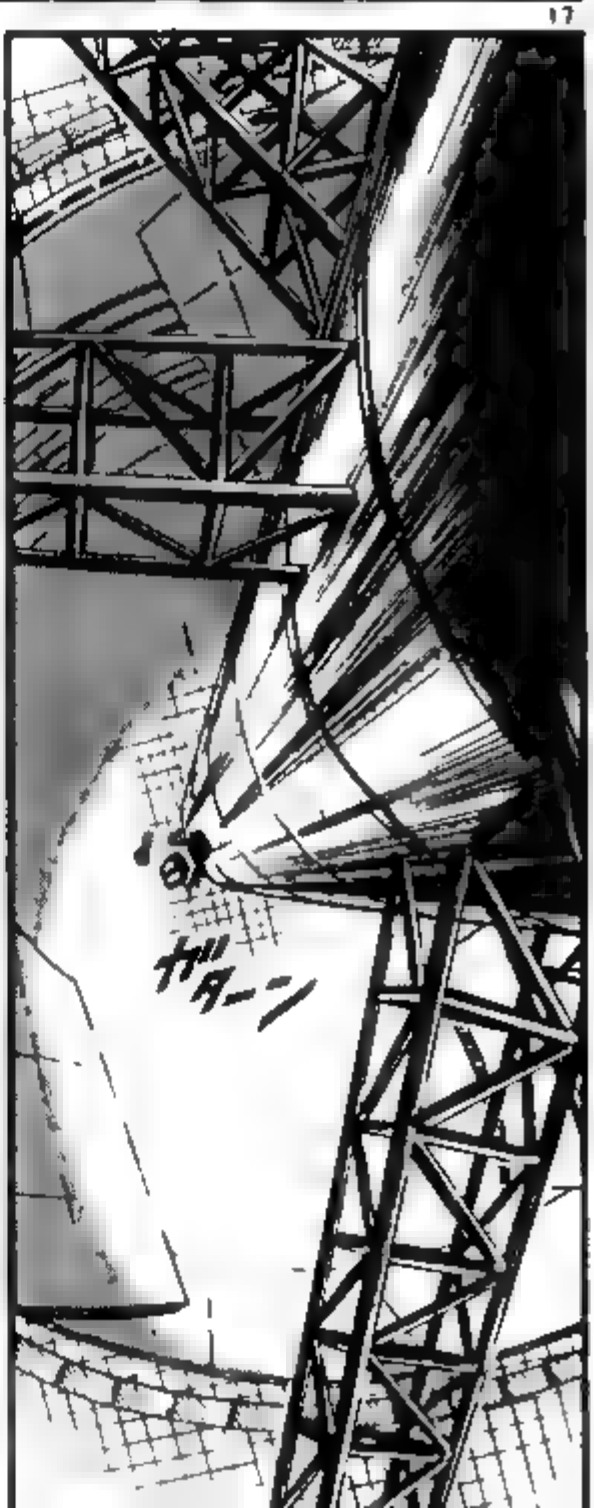
SO THE AUTOMATA MADE YOU WAIT...?

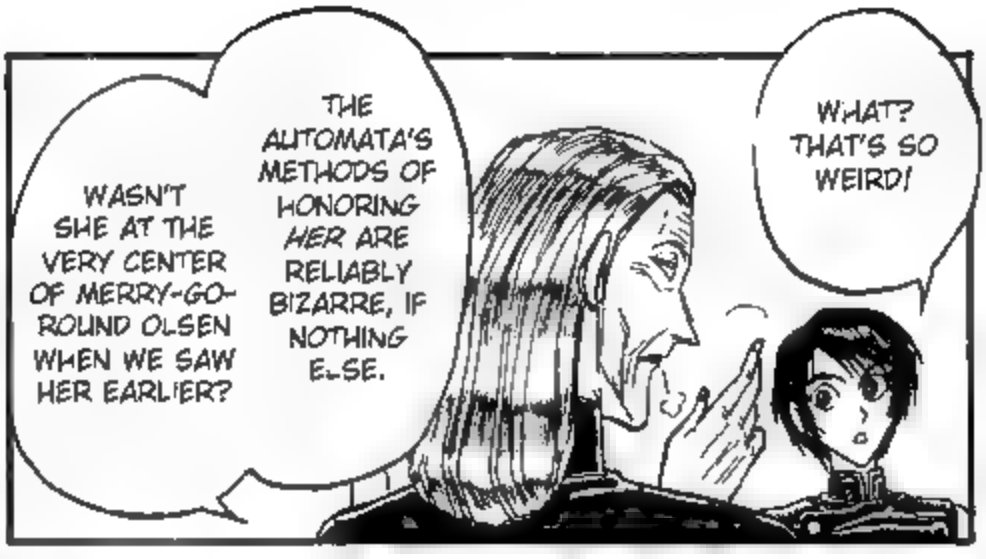
THE NEXT STEP FOR YOU IS A BATTLE WITH LES QUATRE PIONNIERS ...
FOR THE AMUSE-MENT OF OUR LADY FRAN-CINE!
FOR DYING WITHOUT YOUR FRIENDS BY YOUR SIDE...
WOULD MAKE YOUR JOURNEY TO THE GATES OF HELL TOO TERRIBLY LONELY!

THE DOLL... FRANCINE!



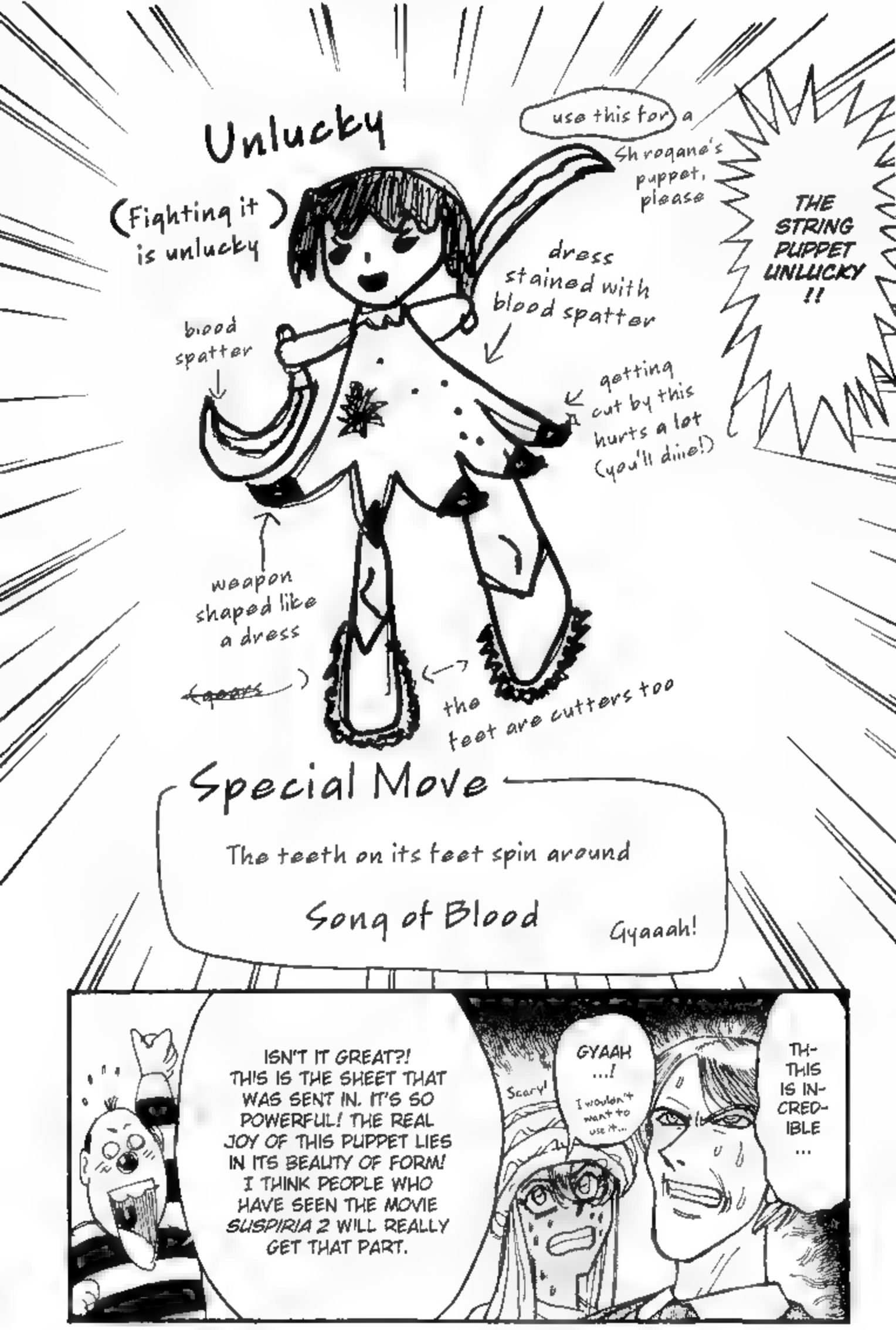

THESE CREATURES ALWAYS WISH FOR *HER* TO BE IN THE CENTER OF THE RING.
BUT, MADAME, WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THIS PILLAR WILL LEAD US TO THE DOLL FRANCINE?
PHEW...! THERE, WE FINALLY BURNED THROUGH IT.


ガターン



〈掲載・週刊少年サンデー平成13年16号より平成13年26号まで〉

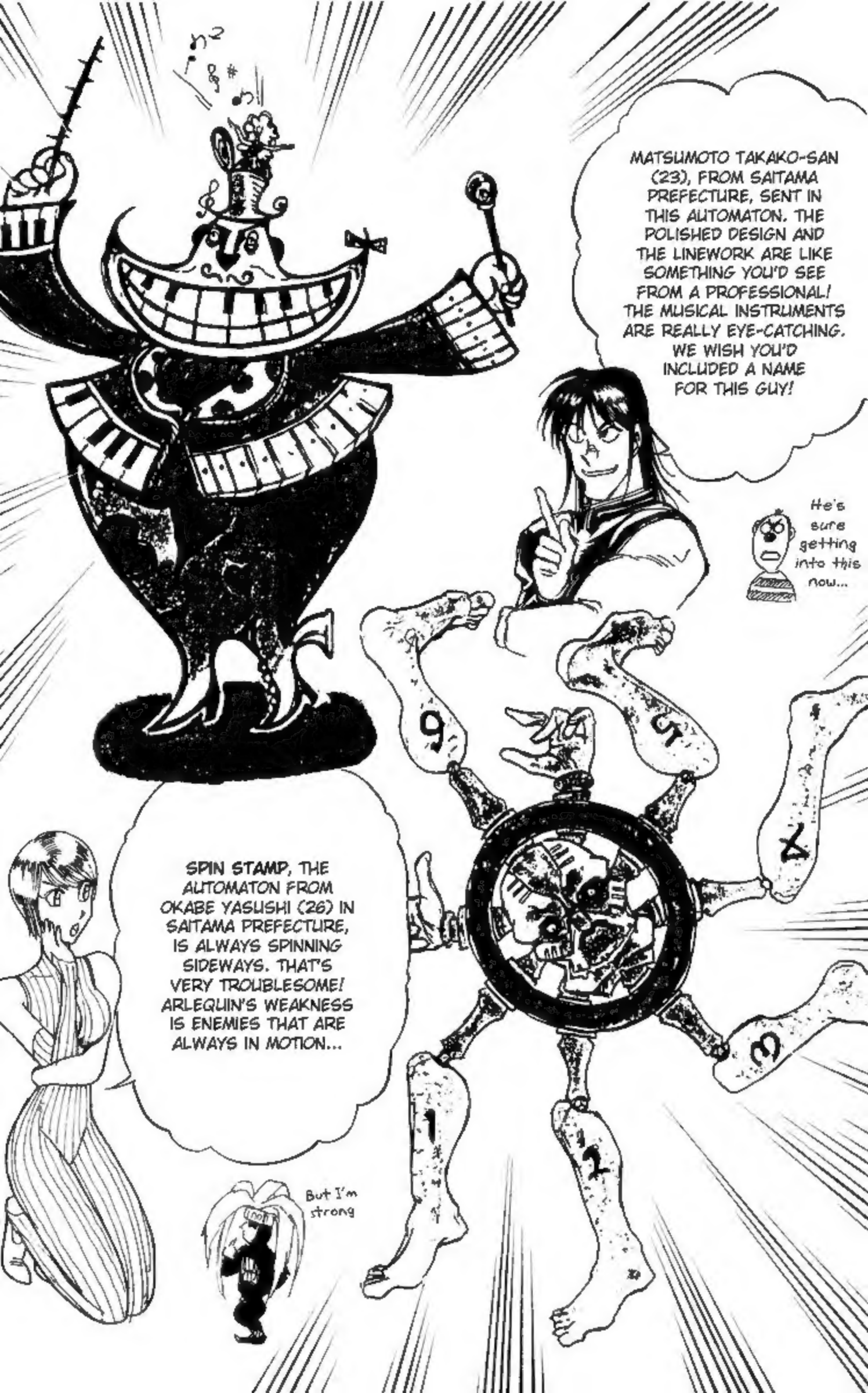
Ending Bonus
GRAND ANNOUNCE-MENT
BUM-BADADUMBUMBUM-BUUUM
HOME-MADE
KARAKURI GRAND PRIX
INTO OUR CONTEST. SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW CLOSED.
.....
NICKY #1...
CO-SLEEPY
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR ENTRIES ...
by
ROCKEN-FIELD AND FATIMA!!
WHAT SAY WE HAVE THE WINNER'S PERSONAL FAVORITE CHARACTERS ANNOUNCE IT?!
FIRST OF ALL, FOR OUR MARIONETTE GRAND PRIZE ...
NOW FOR THE PRE-SENTA-TION!
IT'S THE DESIGN SENT IN BY ITO YUI, AGE 11...
Huh? Er...
FROM WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE IN JAPAN...
NOW THEN... AH, YES, HERE'S THE ANNOUNCE-MENT.


Unlucky
(Fighting it) is unlucky
use this for a Shroqane's puppet, please
THE STRING PUPPET UNLUCKY !!
dress stained with blood spatter
blood spatter
getting cut by this hurts a lot (you'll die!)
weapon shaped like a dress
the feet are cutters too
Special Move
The teeth on its feet spin around
Song of Blood
Gyaaah!
ISN'T IT GREAT?! THIS IS THE SHEET THAT WAS SENT IN. IT'S SO POWERFUL! THE REAL JOY OF THIS PUPPET LIES IN ITS BEAUTY OF FORM! I THINK PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THE MOVIE SUSPIRIA 2 WILL REALLY GET THAT PART.
Scary!
GYAAH ...!
I wouldn't want to use it...
TH-THIS IS IN-CRED-IBLE ...

THE WINNER IS SHIBATA SHOUGO-KUN, AGE 18.
FROM NAGOYA IN AICHI PREFEC-TURE...
No whining!
How come I've gotta introduce the Auto-maton?
AND SO SINCE THE NEXT WINNER LIKES ME, NARUMI, I'M HERE TO PRESENT THE FIRST PRIZE IN THE AUTOMATA CATEGORY.

THE AUTO-MATON BROM BROM LAW!!

I don't wanna!
HOLD ON A SECOND. I'M NOT GONNA BE DOING THAT, AM I?!
Yahoo!
ISN'T HE GREAT TOO?! ONCE HE MAKES HIS APPEARANCE, THE OTHER SIDE IS SURE TO HAVE A TOUGH FIGHT ON THEIR HANDS! THEY'LL BE SOARING THROUGH THE AIR ON A SWING! SO COOL!
OKAY, HERE ARE THE FIVE WINNERS OF THE KARAKURI PRIZE!!
Um, hey...
This is Assassin-Style Puppet.
ASSASSIN-STYLE PUPPET FROM SADAMURA KENTA-KUN (8), KANAGAWA PREFECTURE! THIS DESIGN IS GOOD, BUT, KENTA-KUN, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY STOP PLOTTING ASSASSINATIONS NOW!
MIZUNO TSUBASA-KUN (17), FROM TOKYO, SENT IN STRIGO (LEFT) AND SPAGHETTINO (RIGHT)! THE KENDAMA LOOK MAKES FOR A VERY ORIGINAL PAIR OF AUTOMATA. WE LOVED IT!


MATSUMOTO TAKAKO-SAN (23), FROM SAITAMA PREFECTURE, SENT IN THIS AUTOMATON. THE POLISHED DESIGN AND THE LINEWORK ARE LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D SEE FROM A PROFESSIONAL! THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ARE REALLY EYE-CATCHING. WE WISH YOU'D INCLUDED A NAME FOR THIS GUY!
He's sure getting into this now...
SPIN STAMP, THE AUTOMATON FROM OKABE YASUSHI (26) IN SAITAMA PREFECTURE, IS ALWAYS SPINNING SIDEWAYS. THAT'S VERY TROUBLESOME! ARLEQUIN'S WEAKNESS IS ENEMIES THAT ARE ALWAYS IN MOTION...
But I'm strong

ICHIPINMAN (19) FROM TOKYO, SENT IN HARRY THE HORROR, MANUFACTURED IN JAPAN. ITS WEAPONS ARE THOSE HUGE HOOKS AND THE HAND THAT SERVES AS ITS LOWER BODY. IT'S VERY BIG. THIS WAS SPECIFIED. HOW IMPRESSIVE... I LIKE THE SHAPE OF ITS HEAD, BUT, ULTIMATELY, IF I ENDED UP FIGHTING WITH IT, I'D PREFER IT TO BE SMALLER!
THANK YOU! OUR TOP-RANKING WINNERS WERE THOSE SHOWN ABOVE!!
I HOPE TO SOMEDAY HAVE THE CHANCE TO ANNOUNCE MORE!
CO-SLEEPY ...
NICKY #1...
.....

SEE YOU.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

Notes:
Okabe Yasushi also submitted
the character design for Genocide
to the *Kinnikuman* manga.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only*
to Batoto so that I can remove them if the
series is ever licensed. Please read them
there instead of on websites that rip them and
watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is
welcome to take over at any time or to redo
chapters I have already done if they are
below the quality that this series deserves.